

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended to specifically recite storage means for storing invoices. Support is found in Applicants' specification, page 5, lines 20-23, where specific examples of storage means are given.

Claims 1, 6-9 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5 including making clear the either...or construction of either GRR number, or unit price, or quantity. Support is found in the specification, page 8, lines 4-10, and in claim 5 as originally filed.

Claims 6 and 9 are amended to specifically recite the entering and storing step. Support is found on page 5, lines 20-21.

Claims 1-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1, as noted above, to more particularly point out storage means for storing invoices. Clearly the active memory devices and hard disk, floppy disk, CD ROM, DVD or other storage medium of page 5, lines 20-23, comprise storage means for storing invoices 20. Entry means for automatic and manual entry are described on page 5, lines 12-20. One of ordinary skill in the art having page 5, lines 12-23, and FIG. 1 in hand, would know the meaning of the first element of claim 1 as amended above. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 3-4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also definite.

Claims 7 and 8 are amended above in a way similar to claim 1, thus overcoming their rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

Claims 6 and 9 are amended above to clarify the entering and storing step. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama (U.S. Patent 4,851,999) in view of the document "Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment." However, claims 1, 6, and 7 are amended above to include the specific limitations of the logical match of originally filed claim 5. As noted by the Examiner, Moriyama does not describe performing a logical three way match. While the document "Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment" describes a three way match process, Applicants contend that the specific three way match now recited in claims 1, 6, and 7 is not described in the document. In fact, the document does not describe at all how the match is performed. Nor does it describe how to handle the frequent cases where the unit price shown on one or more GRR does not equal the unit price on an invoice, or where a clerical or communication error occurs as noted in Applicants' specification, page 8, lines 16-27.

Because the document does not describe Applicants matching process of claims 1, 6, and 7, these claims are allowable and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 are dependent directly or indirectly on allowable claim 1 and are therefore also allowable.

Independent claims 8 and 9 are also amended above to incorporate all of the limitations of previously filed claim 5. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reason given above for claims 1, 6, and 7.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) An invoice processing system, comprising:

entry means for entering and storage means for storing invoices;

a database tool having one or more goods received receipts and
one or more purchase orders;

matching tool means coupled to said entry means and said database
tool for periodically inquiring said database tool to determine
if a new goods received receipt is present, performing a logical
three-way match between each said invoice, said one or more goods
received receipts, and said one or more purchase orders, and
wherein said logical three-way match is performed by comparing a
GRR number on each said invoice with a GRR number on said one or
more GRR, a unit price on said one or more GRR with a unit price
on each said invoice, and a quantity on each said invoice with a
quantity on said one or more GRR, and wherein an equal comparison
of either said GRR number, or said unit price, or said quantity
shall constitute said match was found, including generating
logical results of said three-way match; and

a transfer tool for transferring said logical results from said
matching tool means to said database tool, including transferring
each said stored invoice for which a match was found by said
matching tool means.

2. (Not Amended) The invoice processing system of claim 1,
wherein said entry means comprises means for electronic entry.

1 3. (Not Amended) The invoice processing system of claim 2,
2 wherein said entry means further comprises means for electronic
3 entry via EDI 850 protocol.

1 4. (Not Amended) The invoice processing system of claim 1,
2 wherein said database tool is SAP.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

1 6. (Amended) A method of processing invoices, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 entering [and storing] invoices in an invoice processing tool and
4 storing said invoices in a computer memory;

5 providing a database tool having one or more goods received
6 receipts and one or more purchase orders;

7 periodically inquiring said database tool to determine if a new
8 goods received receipt is present, performing a logical three-way
9 match between each said invoice, said one or more goods received
10 receipts, and said one or more purchase orders, and wherein said
11 logical three-way match is performed by comparing a GRR number on
12 each said invoice with a GRR number on said one or more GRR, a
13 unit price on said one or more GRR with a unit price on each said
14 invoice, and a quantity on each said invoice with a quantity on
15 said one or more GRR, and wherein an equal comparison of either
16 said GRR number, or said unit price, or said quantity shall
17 constitute said match was found;

18 [including] generating logical results of said three-way match;
19 and

20 transferring said logical results from said invoice processing
21 tool to said database tool including transferring each said
22 stored invoice for which a match was found by performing said
23 logical three-way match.

1 7. (Amended) A data processing apparatus for processing
2 invoices, said apparatus comprising;

3 means for entering and means for storing invoices in an invoice
4 processing tool;

5 means for providing a database tool having one or more goods
6 received receipts and one or more purchase orders;

7 means for periodically inquiring said database tool to determine
8 if a new goods received receipt is present, performing a logical
9 three-way match between each said invoice, said one or more goods
10 received receipts, and said one or more purchase orders, and
11 wherein said logical three-way match is performed by comparing a
12 GRR number on each said invoice with a GRR number on said one or
13 more GRR, a unit price on said one or more GRR with a unit price
14 on each said invoice, and a quantity on each said invoice with a
15 quantity on said one or more GRR, and wherein an equal comparison
16 of either said GRR number, or said unit price, or said quantity
17 shall constitute said match was found, including generating
18 logical results of said three-way match; and

19 means for transferring said logical results from said invoice
20 processing tool to said database tool including transferring each
21 said stored invoice for which a match was found by performing
22 said logical three-way match.

1 8. (Amended) A computer program product for processing
2 [invoiced] invoices, said computer program product comprising;

3 a computer readable medium;

4 first program instruction means for entering and means for
5 storing invoices in an invoice processing tool;

6 second program instruction means for providing a database tool
7 having one or more goods received receipts and one or more
8 purchase orders;

9 third program instruction means for periodically inquiring said
10 database tool to determine if a new goods received receipt is
11 present, performing a logical three-way match between each said
12 invoice, said one or more goods received receipts, and said one
13 or more purchase orders, and wherein said logical three-way match
14 is performed by comparing a Grr number on each said invoice with
15 a GRR number on said one or more GRR, a unit price on said one or
16 more GRR with a unit price on each said invoice, and a quantity
17 on each said invoice with a quantity on said one or more GRR, and
18 wherein an equal comparison of either said GRR number, or said
19 unit price, or said quantity shall constitute said match was
20 found, including generating logical results of said three-way
21 match;

22 fourth program instruction means for transferring said logical
23 results from said invoice processing tool to said database tool
24 including transferring each said stored invoice for which a match
25 was found by performing said logical three-way match; and wherein
26 all said program instruction means are recorded on said medium.

1 9. (Amended) Computer executable process steps operative to
2 control a computer, stored on a computer readable medium, for
3 processing invoices, comprising;

4 a step to enter [and store] invoices on an invoice processing
5 tool and store said invoices in a computer memory;

6 a step to provide a database having one or more goods received
7 receipts and one or more purchase orders;

8 a step to periodically inquire said database tool to determine if
9 a new goods received receipt is present, perform a logical three-
10 way match between each said invoice, said one or more goods
11 received receipts, and said one or more purchase orders, and
12 wherein said logical three-way match is performed by comparing a
13 GRR number on each said invoice with a GRR number on said one or
14 more GRR, a unit price on said one or more GRR with a unit price
15 on each said invoice, and a quantity on each said invoice with a
16 quantity on said one or more GRR, and wherein an equal comparison
17 of either said GRR number, or said unit price, or said quantity
18 shall constitute said match was found, including generating
19 logical results of said three-way match; and

20 a step to transfer said logical results from said invoice
21 processing tool to said database tool including transferring each
22 said stored invoice for which a match was found by performing
23 said logical three-way match.